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Project Based Learning as a Method for Education

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Abstract

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) have presented the educational field with the challenge of meeting a new set of performance expectations for Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) education. Project based learning (PBL) is a proposed method for meeting the NGSS by infusing hands-on activities with traditional learning methods. Our Interactive Qualifying Project developed, implemented, and gained results from an eight day in-class project on volcanos in a sixth grade class at Sky View Middle School, Leominster, MA. Our observations as well as those of the teacher suggest an increase in the use of science and engineering practices and enthusiasm in the students. The outcomes of this study indicate that PBL might be an effective way to implement the NGSS.